

The Pacific Islands

3 US Territories:

American Samoa, Guam, CNMI

3 Freely Associated States:

Palau, Marshall Islands,
Federated States of Micronesia

450,000 people

10+ languages

Rich cultural heritage



US Pacific Islands

Territorial land area:

595 sq miles
= 12 x SF area

Ocean Exclusive Economic Zone:

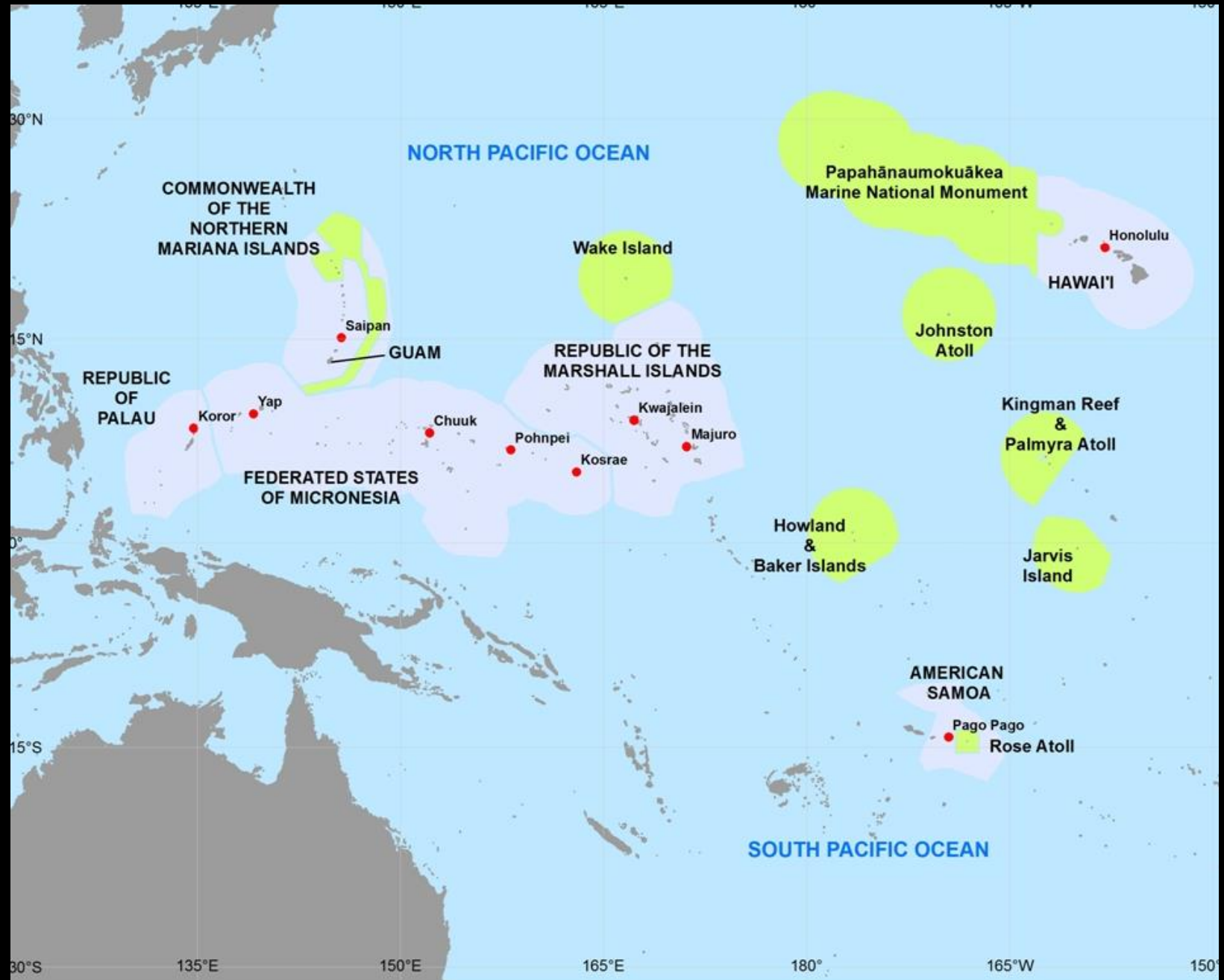
530,000 sq miles
24% US EEZ

Time zones:

GU: -7 hr (+ 1 day)

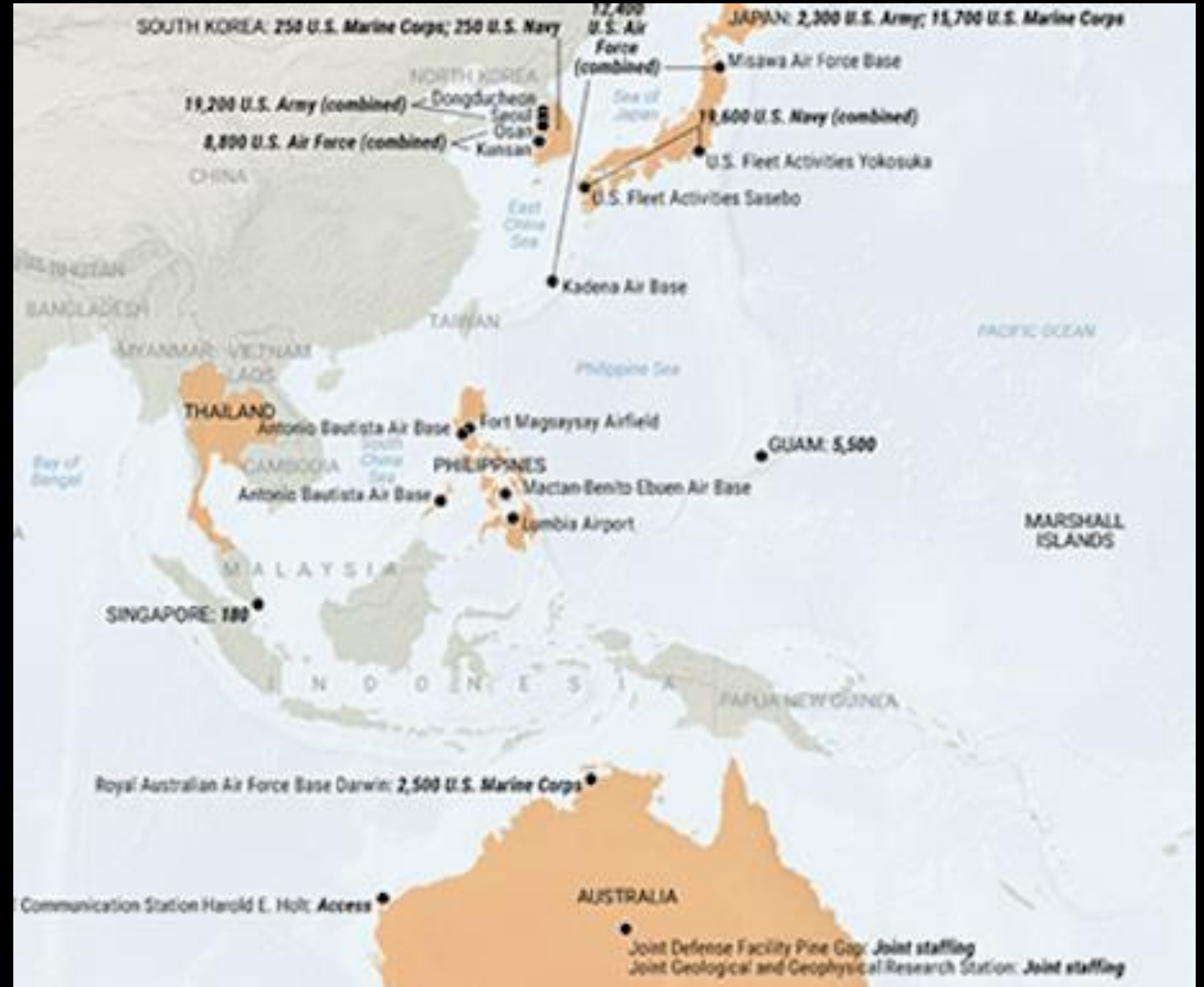
Same as Sydney

Palau: -8 (+1 day, same Tokyo)



National Security Importance

- Military bases
 - Guam – closest US soil to East Asia
- Strategic agreements
 - FAS – USG projects
- Missile Defense
 - Kwajalein Atoll, RMI
- Economic encroachment
 - China



Economic Considerations

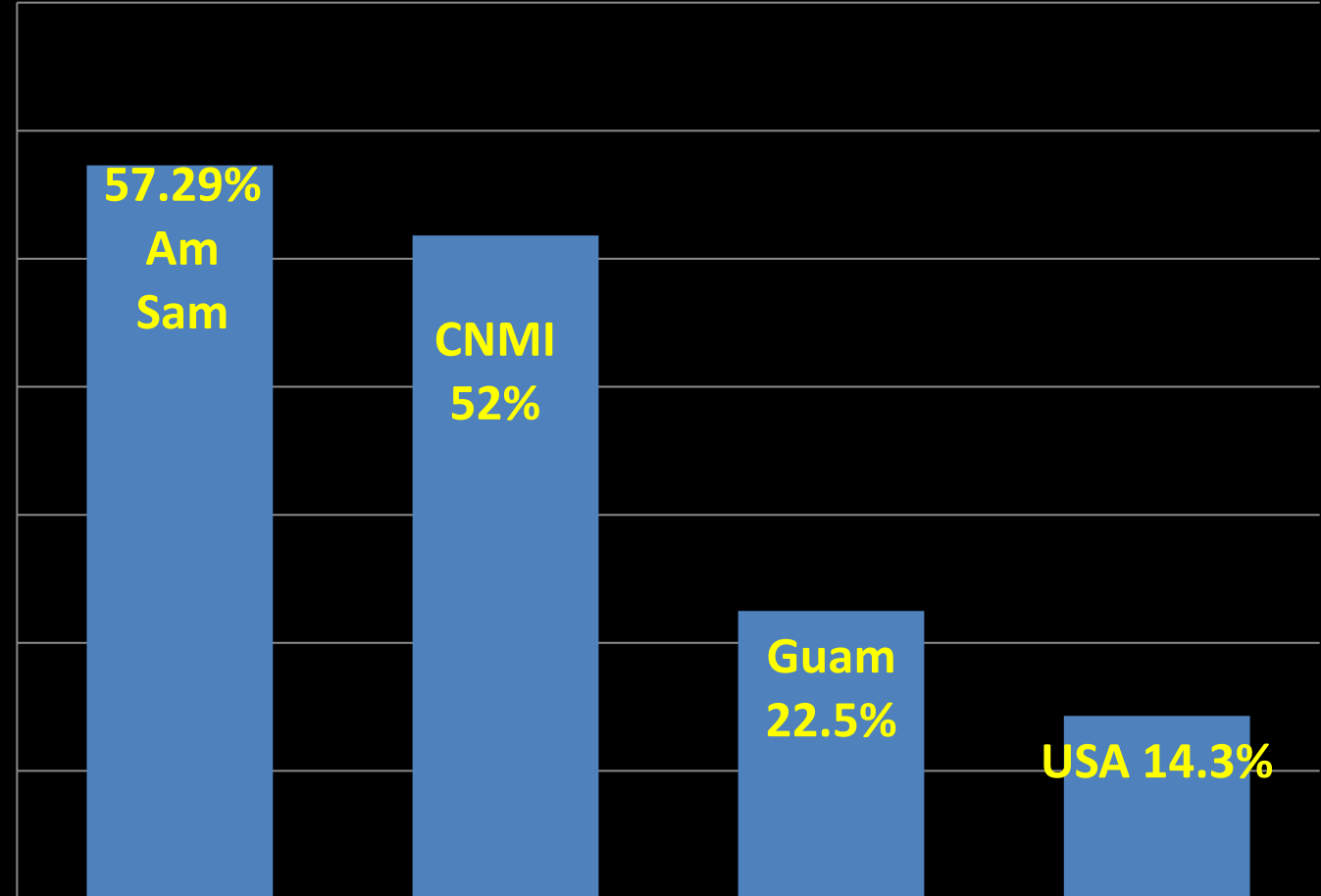
Large ocean EEZ

Major revenue sources

- Military (Guam), & USG
- Tourism
- Gambling (CNMI)
- Transportation (Guam)
- Tuna (Am Sam)

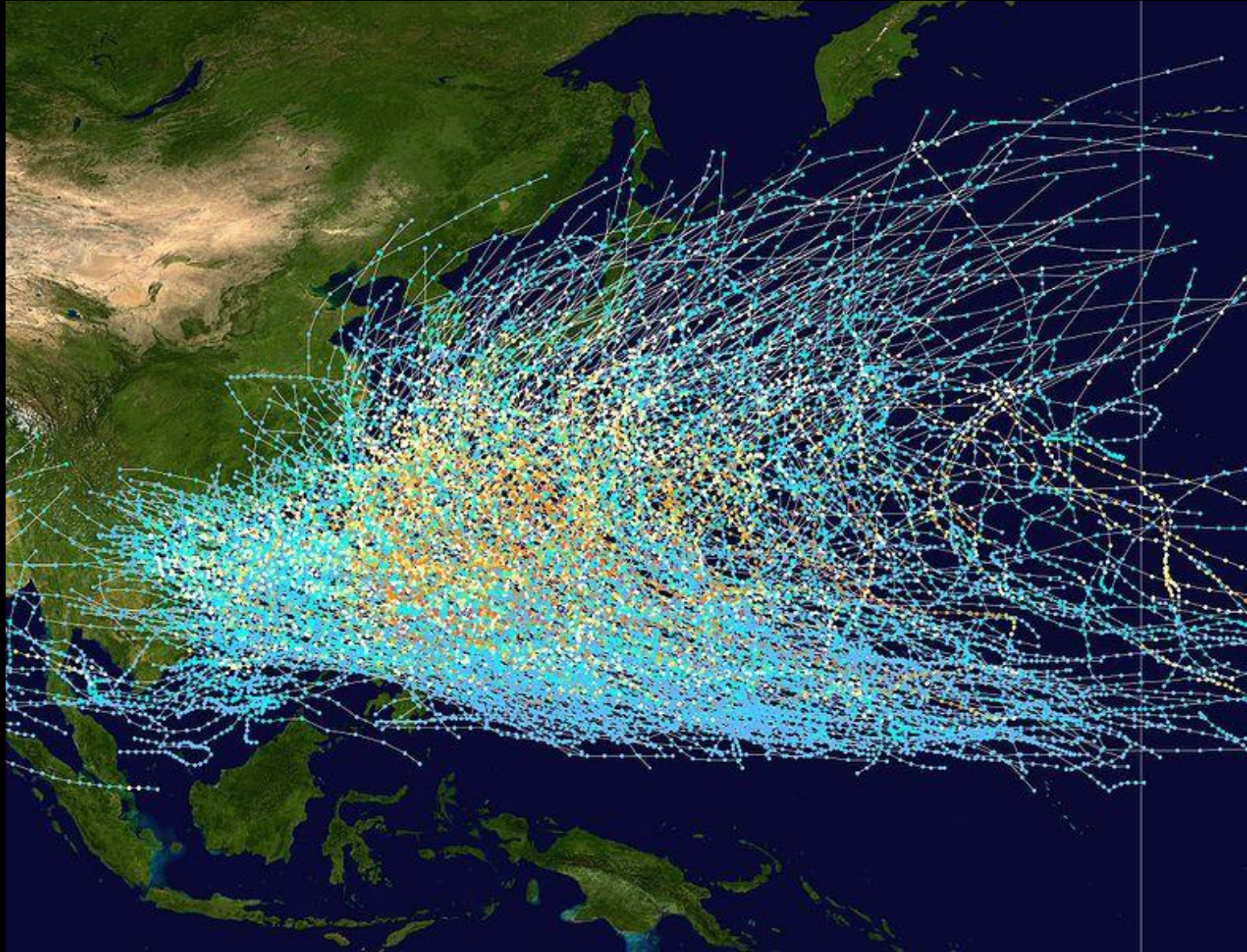
Poor economies, high poverty rates

% of Population below poverty line
Pacific Islands and United States, 2009



Other Challenges in US Pacific Islands

- Remote, costly
- Small populations, talent pool
- Historically poor performing utilities, govt agencies
- Military, development pressure
- Highest concentration of Category 4 and 5 storms on earth
- => The US Pacific territories require awareness & assistance



EPA's Goal in the Pacific Islands:

Help the US Pacific Islands protect their environmental health.

R9's Strategic approach:

- *Support Pacific Islands through funding, technical assistance, and capacity building*
- *EPA lead when Pacific Islands not positioned to do so (e.g., emergency response, certain permit and enforcement actions)*



R9's Internal Structure for Pacific Islands

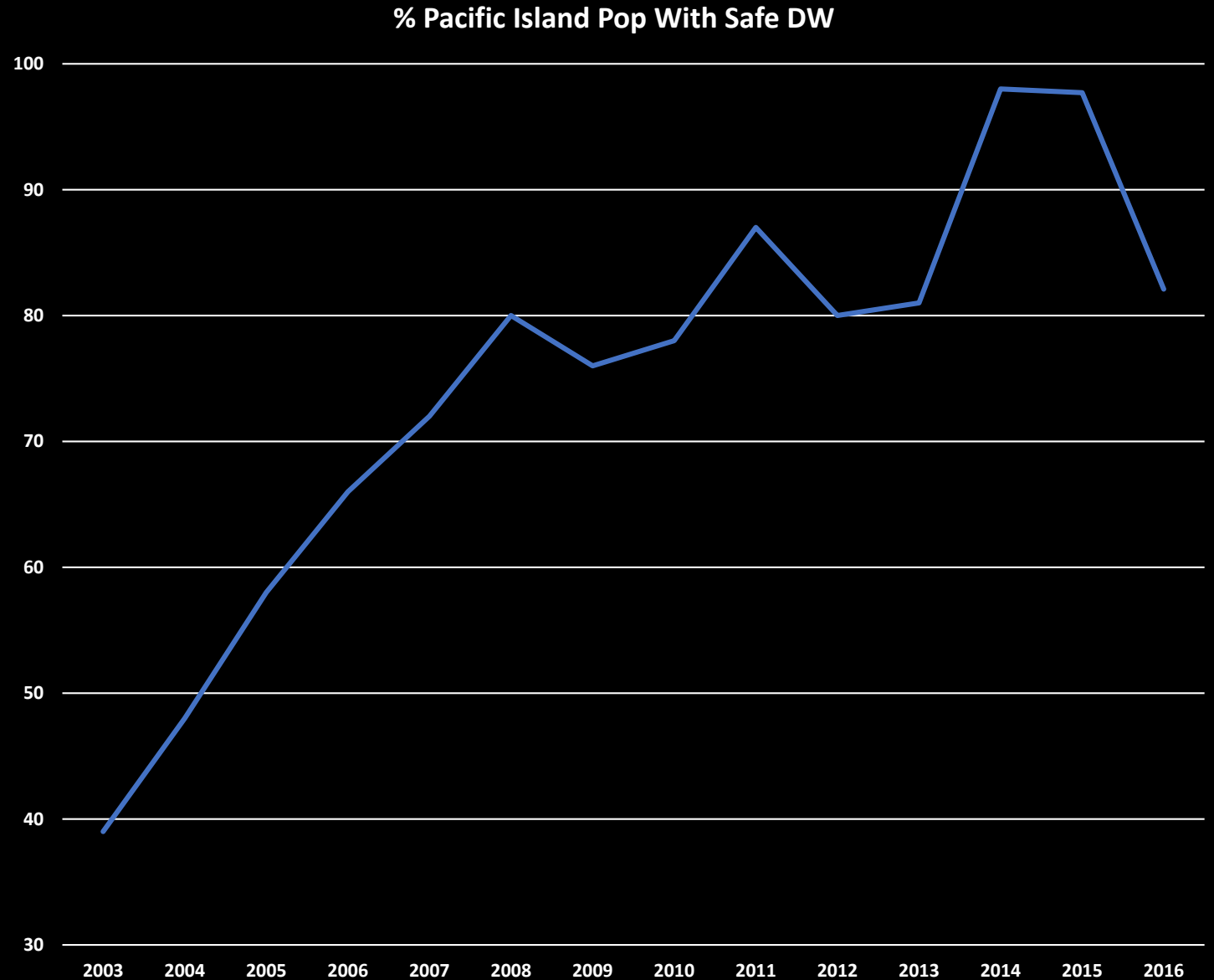
- ***Pacific Islands Office (LND)***
 - ***5 FTE (currently)***
 - ***Efficient “one-stop shopping”***
 - ***Face of EPA with Pacific Islands***
 - ***Manage PPG-like grants (authorized by Congress)***
 - ***No dedicated HQ/NPM support***
- ***R9 Program Offices***
 - ***PIO coordinates with all divisions on Pacific Island work***
 - ***WTR, SFD, LND, AIR, ENF, EMD, ORC, OPA***

EPA Funding to Pacific Islands: \$33 M/yr

EPA Grants, FY2016	AS	CNMI	Guam	Totals
Consolidated Environmental Protection Grants	\$2,703,861	\$2,813,719	\$3,254,195	\$8,771,775
Water & Wastewater Construction Grants	\$8,894,536	\$6,410,000	\$8,800,000	\$24,104,536
Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA)	\$70,715	\$0	\$0	\$70,715
Totals	\$11,669,112	\$9,223,719	\$12,054,195	\$32,947,026

Success Story – Drinking Water Improvements

- **Drinking water safety**
 - **From 39% to 85% of population, 2003-2018**
 - **Health violations were common, now rare**
 - **No violations last 5 years**



Success Story – Disease Eradication, Leptospirosis

American Samoa – Leptospirosis risk nearly eradicated

- ID risk from piggeries
- Outreach to pig owners
- Enforcement
- Monetary incentives

=> liability to asset



Success Story – Wastewater Spills Reduced >99%

- Add'l \$200M in grants
- Upgrades to sewage systems & WWTPs
- Beaches are safer
- Public health improved



More Success Stories:

- Emergency responses
 - Typhoon Soudelor
- GEPA info mgmt. system: worth \$4M/yr to Guam
- Tau, Am Sam: 1st 100% RE island
- Am Samoa Brownfields: key to econ development
- Landfills – 2 major dumps closed: Guam & CNMI
- UXO & other WW II legacies
- Positive relationships



What to Expect in Director's Meeting

- Who's coming (attendee list handout)
- US Territories
 - Guam (11, including 3 Board members)
 - CNMI (4)
 - Am Samoa (3)
- Freely Associated States
 - Marshall Islands (3)
 - Palau (1)
 - FSM: (3, including 1 each from states of Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk)

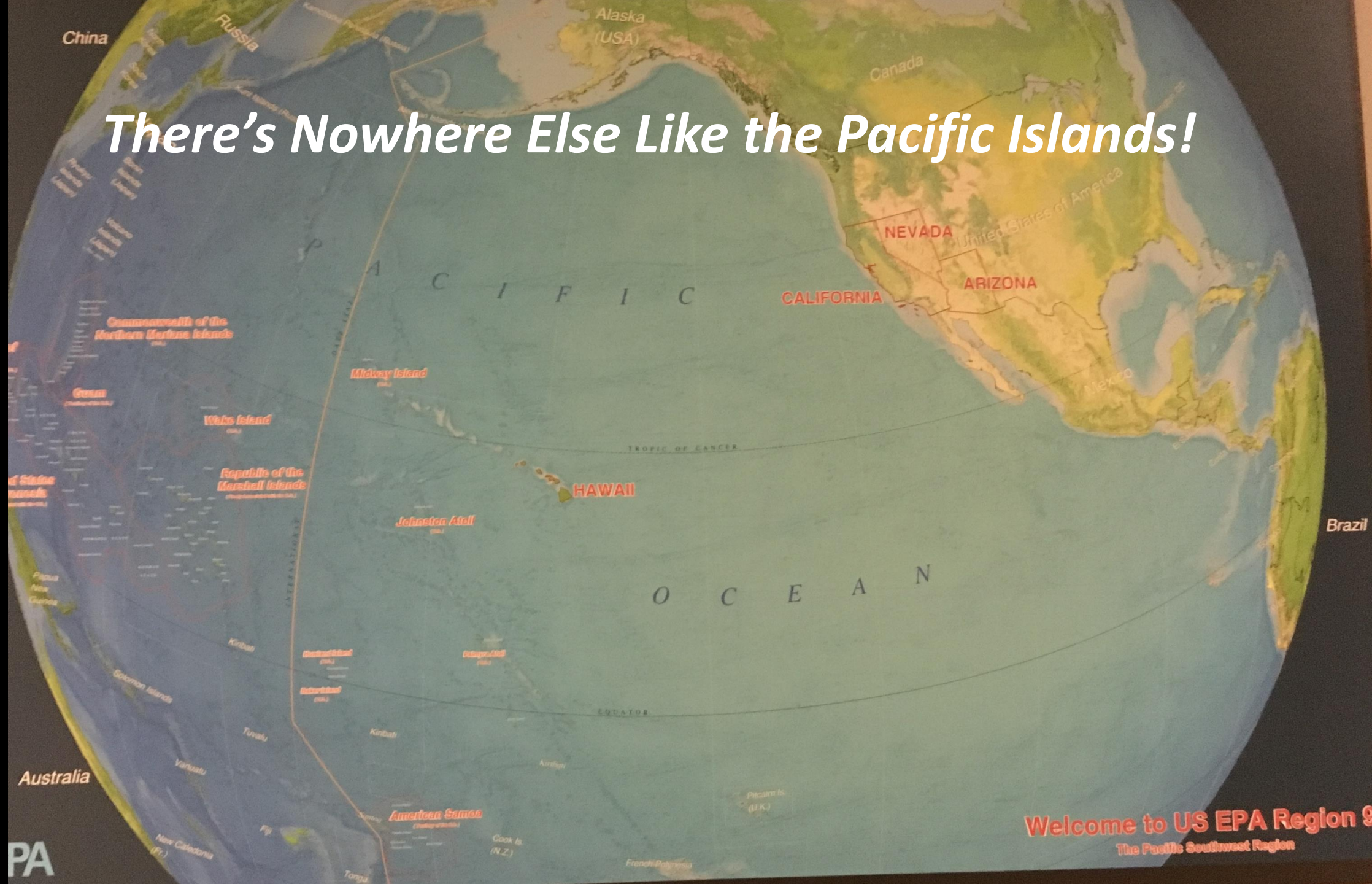
Agenda, Key Times for RA

- **Tuesday 8:30-10:30 – Welcome, introductions, mingling**
 - **Draft Talking points**
- **Wednesday 8:30-10 – Speakers from private sector & nat'l orgs**

Pacific Directors' Priorities

- **Funding: territories rely heavily on US EPA grants**
 - Proposed FY18 budget would have cut revenues up to 45%
- **Continued technical & other support**
- **They value relationships with R9**
- **To hear from you that Pacific Islands are a priority for EPA**
- **Specific issues which may come up:**
 - Need/want PHS engineers
 - Kwajalein: Marshall Islands wants continued EPA involvement with DOD
 - FAS: continued tech support for lab and other needs

There's Nowhere Else Like the Pacific Islands!



Welcome to US EPA Region 9
The Pacific Southwest Region

PA